



**Loni Hancock**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN, FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

February 9, 2005

Steven Russo  
Chief of Enforcement  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Russo:

We are writing today to urge the Fair Political Practices Commission to take immediate action on the complaint filed by TheRestOfUs.org. It is imperative that the questions raised about the fundraising activities conducted by the Citizens to Save California Committee be investigated immediately. The public needs to be assured that the fund raising by CSC in concert with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger follows the letter of the law.

We are deeply troubled by newspaper reports about tactics being employed by CSC. According to quotes made by members of CSC's board, Governor Schwarzenegger has significant influence on the decisions made by the committee – therefore requiring the enforcement of campaign contribution limits, as applied to all other candidate controlled committees. It was reported by the Los Angeles Times on January 12, 2005 that the CSC will "certainly talk to the governor's office. We can get a feel of where the governor is going to go. He's the big king on the chessboard. Wherever he moves, a lot of things move with him."

You have already ruled that candidates and officeholders are subject to Proposition 34's contribution limits for ballot measure committees that they control. Clearly, your rule applies to the Governor when he is acting jointly with Citizens to Save California.

There is very little difference in a state official calling up a contributor and asking for a contribution to a ballot measure committee or his own campaign committee. The appearance of "influence" is exactly the same.

As the enforcement agency for the State of California, the public needs to be assured that the fundraising activities are legal. Since the voters are being asked to sign petitions and ultimately vote on measures put before them, the Commission has a vested interest in guaranteeing that there is not undue influence being exerted on a committee that claims to

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be independent. Otherwise, the Governor and the CSC must follow the laws that apply to every other political action committee.

It is therefore our opinion that the Commission should act swiftly and investigate the complaint filed by TheRestOfUs.org. As the Commission must know, just yesterday the Schwarzenegger Campaign filed a lawsuit in defense of their activities, a clear admission that the law covers them. If the campaign was so confident that it was acting within the law, there would be no need to sue the commission. We also believe the FPPC should immediately file suit against the Governor, as was done with the tribes and Ward Connerly.

Sincerely,



LONI HANCOCK  
Assemblymember  
14<sup>th</sup> District



GENE MULLIN  
Assemblymember  
14<sup>th</sup> District